

# Contents

---

<b>Acknowledgements.....</b>	vii
<b>Acronyms and Abbreviations .....</b>	ix
<b>Executive Summary.....</b>	<b>ES-1</b>
Introduction.....	ES-1
Overall Approach.....	ES-1
Long-Range Planning .....	ES-1
Implementation Strategy Overview .....	ES-2
<b>1      Introduction.....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1     History and Progress to Date.....	1-1
1.2     Office of Solid Waste Services (SWS).....	1-2
1.3     Solid Waste Management Plan Organization .....	1-3
1.4     Solid Waste Management Strategy .....	1-3
1.5     Defining the Planning Area .....	1-4
1.6     General Descriptions.....	1-6
1.6.1    Development in the Major Areas of the City.....	1-6
1.6.2    Topography/Unique Natural Features.....	1-7
1.6.3    Population .....	1-7
1.6.4    Seasonal Population Variation .....	1-8
1.6.5    Number of Households .....	1-8
1.6.6    Commercial/Manufacturing/Industrial Businesses.....	1-9
1.7     Contact Information.....	1-9
<b>2      Waste Disposal Stream Analysis.....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
2.1     Inventory of Waste Stream Generators .....	2-1
2.1.1    Residential Waste Generation.....	2-5
2.1.2    Commercial Waste Generation.....	2-5
2.1.3    Institutional Waste Generation.....	2-7
2.1.4    Industrial Waste Generation.....	2-7
2.1.5    Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Generation .....	2-7
2.1.6    Yard Trimmings Generation.....	2-8
2.1.7    Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge.....	2-8
2.1.8    Used Tire Generation.....	2-9
2.2     Waste Disposal Characterization .....	2-10
2.3     Fluctuations in the Quantity of Solid Waste Disposed .....	2-10
2.4     Waste-Generating Disasters.....	2-12
2.5     Waste Generation, Disposal, and Recycling Rates for the Planning Period .....	2-13
2.5.1    Population .....	2-13
2.5.2    Residential Waste Generation Rate.....	2-13
2.5.3    Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Waste Generation Rates .....	2-14
2.5.4    C&D Debris Generation Rate.....	2-16
2.5.5    Yard Trimmings Generation Rate.....	2-17

# Contents

---

<b>Acknowledgements.....</b>	vii
<b>Acronyms and Abbreviations .....</b>	ix
<b>Executive Summary.....</b>	<b>ES-1</b>
Introduction.....	ES-1
Overall Approach.....	ES-1
Long-Range Planning .....	ES-1
Implementation Strategy Overview .....	ES-2
<b>1      Introduction.....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1     History and Progress to Date.....	1-1
1.2     Office of Solid Waste Services (SWS).....	1-2
1.3     Solid Waste Management Plan Organization .....	1-3
1.4     Solid Waste Management Strategy .....	1-3
1.5     Defining the Planning Area .....	1-4
1.6     General Descriptions.....	1-6
1.6.1    Development in the Major Areas of the City.....	1-6
1.6.2    Topography/Unique Natural Features.....	1-7
1.6.3    Population .....	1-7
1.6.4    Seasonal Population Variation .....	1-8
1.6.5    Number of Households .....	1-8
1.6.6    Commercial/Manufacturing/Industrial Businesses.....	1-9
1.7     Contact Information.....	1-9
<b>2      Waste Disposal Stream Analysis.....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
2.1     Inventory of Waste Stream Generators .....	2-1
2.1.1    Residential Waste Generation.....	2-5
2.1.2    Commercial Waste Generation.....	2-5
2.1.3    Institutional Waste Generation.....	2-7
2.1.4    Industrial Waste Generation.....	2-7
2.1.5    Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Generation .....	2-7
2.1.6    Yard Trimmings Generation.....	2-8
2.1.7    Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge.....	2-8
2.1.8    Used Tire Generation.....	2-9
2.2     Waste Disposal Characterization .....	2-10
2.3     Fluctuations in the Quantity of Solid Waste Disposed .....	2-10
2.4     Waste-Generating Disasters.....	2-12
2.5     Waste Generation, Disposal, and Recycling Rates for the Planning Period .....	2-13
2.5.1    Population .....	2-13
2.5.2    Residential Waste Generation Rate.....	2-13
2.5.3    Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Waste Generation Rates .....	2-14
2.5.4    C&D Debris Generation Rate.....	2-16
2.5.5    Yard Trimmings Generation Rate.....	2-17

2.5.6	Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Disposal Rate .....	2-17
2.5.7	Tire Disposal Rate .....	2-18
2.5.8	Residential Recycling Rate.....	2-18
2.6	Waste Disposal Tonnages for the Planning Period .....	2-20
2.7	Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Reduction Goal .....	2-21
<b>3</b>	<b>Waste Reduction Element .....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
3.1	Source Reduction .....	3-2
3.1.1	Education Program (Existing Program) .....	3-2
3.1.2	Assessment of Source Reduction Programs.....	3-2
3.2	Reuse/Recovery .....	3-3
3.2.1	Reuse/Recovery Organizations (Existing Program) .....	3-3
3.2.2	Waste Audits (Existing Program) .....	3-4
3.2.3	Waste Exchanges (Existing Program) .....	3-5
3.2.4	Assessment of Reuse/Recovery Programs .....	3-5
3.3	Recycling .....	3-6
3.3.1	Residential Curbside Collection Program (Existing Program).....	3-6
3.3.2	Materials Recovery Facility .....	3-7
3.3.3	Drop-Off Centers (Existing Program) .....	3-8
3.3.4	Recycling in City Buildings (Existing Program).....	3-8
3.3.5	Recycled-Content Procurement Policy (Existing Program).....	3-9
3.3.6	City Auctions (Existing Program) .....	3-9
3.3.7	Materials for the Arts Program (Existing Program).....	3-9
3.3.8	Commercial Multi-Family Recycling Programs (Existing Program).....	3-9
3.3.9	Commercial Business Recycling Programs (Existing Program).....	3-9
3.3.10	C&D Debris Recycling (Existing Program) .....	3-10
3.3.11	Tire Recycling (Existing Program).....	3-10
3.3.12	Yard Trimmings Recycling .....	3-10
3.3.13	White Goods Recycling (Existing Program) .....	3-11
3.3.14	Assessment of Recycling Programs.....	3-11
3.4	Waste Reduction Alternatives for Waste-Generating Disasters.....	3-14
3.5	Needs and Goals .....	3-15
3.5.1	Waste Reduction Programs .....	3-15
3.5.2	Reuse/Recovery Programs.....	3-17
3.5.3	Recycling Programs .....	3-18
<b>4</b>	<b>Collection Element.....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1	Service Area and Existing Multi-Jurisdictional Agreements.....	4-1
4.2	Garbage Collection .....	4-1
4.2.1	City of Atlanta Garbage Collection .....	4-1
4.2.2	Private Garbage Collection.....	4-4
4.2.3	Assessment of Garbage Collection Programs .....	4-4
4.3	Recycling Collection .....	4-6
4.3.1	Residential Curbside Recycling Collection (Existing Program) .....	4-6
4.3.2	Multi-Family Recycling Collection (Existing Program) .....	4-7
4.3.3	Commercial Business Recycling Collection (Existing Program) .....	4-7
4.3.4	Other Recycling Programs (Existing Programs).....	4-8
4.3.5	Assessment of Recycling Collection Programs.....	4-8

---

4.4	Yard Trimmings Collection.....	4-10
4.4.1	Residential Curbside Yard Trimmings Collection (Existing Program) .....	4-10
4.4.2	Assessment of Residential Yard Trimmings Collection Programs ..	4-10
4.5	Non-Traditional Solid Waste Collection Services.....	4-11
4.5.1	City-Owned Buildings and Facilities Collection (Existing Program) .....	4-11
4.5.2	City Beautification and Common Good Services (Existing Program) .....	4-12
4.5.3	Assessment of City Beautification and Common Good Services Programs.....	4-12
4.6	Illegal Dumping/Littering .....	4-12
4.6.1	Inventory of Chronic Problem Areas.....	4-12
4.6.2	Prevention/Enforcement Strategy (Existing Program) .....	4-13
4.7	Contingency Strategies .....	4-15
4.7.1	Solid Waste Collection.....	4-15
4.7.2	Recycling Collection.....	4-15
4.7.3	Yard Trimmings Collection.....	4-16
4.7.4	Non-Traditional Collection Services.....	4-16
4.8	Needs and Goals.....	4-16
4.8.1	Garbage Collection Programs.....	4-16
4.8.2	Recycling Collection Programs .....	4-18
4.8.3	Yard Trimmings Collection Programs .....	4-18
4.8.4	Non-Traditional Collection Services Program .....	4-19
4.8.5	Illegal Dumping/Littering Programs.....	4-19
<b>5</b>	<b>Disposal Element.....</b>	<b>5-1</b>
5.1	Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Practices .....	5-1
5.1.1	Solid Waste Transfer Stations (Existing Program).....	5-2
5.1.2	Landfills (Existing Program).....	5-2
5.1.3	Assurance of 10-Year Disposal Capacity .....	5-3
5.1.4	Assessment.....	5-3
5.1.5	Contingency Strategy.....	5-3
5.2	Inventory of Thermal Treatment Disposal Practices (Existing Programs)....	5-3
5.2.1	Assessment.....	5-6
5.3	Needs and Goals.....	5-6
5.3.1	Combustion Waste-to-Energy Solutions .....	5-7
5.3.2	Regional Landfills (New Program).....	5-9
5.3.3	Use of Transfer Stations to Support Regional Disposal Facilities (New Program) .....	5-11
5.3.4	Eco-Industrial Park (New Program).....	5-13
<b>6</b>	<b>Land Limitation Element .....</b>	<b>6-1</b>
6.1	Natural Environmental Limitations .....	6-1
6.1.1	Floodplains .....	6-2
6.1.2	Wetlands .....	6-2
6.1.3	Groundwater Recharge Areas .....	6-4
6.1.4	Water Supply Watersheds.....	6-4
6.1.5	River Corridors .....	6-7

6.1.6	Protected Mountains .....	6-7
6.1.7	Fault Zones, Seismic Impact Zones, and Unstable Areas (Karst Areas).....	6-7
6.2	Land Use Limitations .....	6-9
6.2.1	Land Use and Zoning Restrictions .....	6-9
6.2.2	Historic Sites .....	6-11
6.2.3	Archaeological Sites.....	6-11
6.2.4	Surface Water Intakes.....	6-12
6.2.5	Airport Safety .....	6-12
6.2.6	Scenic View or Vista .....	6-12
6.2.7	Parkland and Nature Preserves .....	6-12
6.2.8	Habitat of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants, Animals, and Biological Communities .....	6-14
6.2.9	Chattahoochee River Corridor .....	6-14
6.3	Disproportionate Environmental Impacts.....	6-14
6.4	Other Regulatory Requirements for Solid Waste Facility Siting.....	6-18
6.5	Procedures to Establish Consistency with Comprehensive SWMP (New Program).....	6-20
6.6	Needs and Goals .....	6-22
<b>7</b>	<b>Education and Public Involvement Element .....</b>	<b>7-1</b>
7.1	Existing Educational Programs and Public Involvement Opportunities .....	7-1
7.1.1	Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Team (S.W.E.E.T.) (Existing Program) .....	7-1
7.1.2	Trash Troopers (Existing Program) .....	7-2
7.1.3	Customer Service Center (Existing Program) .....	7-3
7.1.4	SWS Service Schedule Information Campaign (Existing Program) ..	7-3
7.1.5	Recycling and Education Program (Existing Program) .....	7-3
7.1.6	Keep Atlanta Beautiful (Existing Program) .....	7-4
7.1.7	Speaker's Bureau/ Attendance at Neighborhood Planning Unit and APAB Meetings (Existing Program).....	7-4
7.1.8	Newsletters (Existing Program).....	7-4
7.1.9	Solid Waste Management Planning Advisory Group (Existing Program).....	7-5
7.1.10	Public Involvement Related to the Development of Comprehensive SWMP (Existing Program).....	7-5
7.1.11	Assessment of Programs .....	7-7
7.2	Needs and Goals .....	7-8
7.2.1	Partnerships with Other Organizations.....	7-9
7.2.2	Public Outreach.....	7-11
7.2.3	Educational Materials.....	7-13
<b>8</b>	<b>Implementation .....</b>	<b>8-1</b>
8.1	Implementation Strategy .....	8-1
8.2	Financing Mechanisms.....	8-2
8.3	Updating the Plan.....	8-3

---

## Figures

1-1	Atlanta Vicinity Map.....	1-5
2-1	Waste Generating Trends in the City of Atlanta (2001-2003).....	2-4
2-2	Waste Generating Trends for the City of Atlanta Collections Not Including Private Waste Haulers (1995-2000) .....	2-4
2-3	Residential Waste Generation Trends in the City of Atlanta .....	2-5
2-4	Commercial Waste Generation Trends in the City of Atlanta .....	2-6
2-5	C&D Debris Disposal Trends in the City of Atlanta .....	2-8
2-6	Yard Trimmings Generation Trends in the City of Atlanta .....	2-8
2-7	Sludge Generation Trends in the City of Atlanta .....	2-9
2-8	Monthly Fluctuations in Waste Collected by the City of Atlanta in 2003 .....	2-12
2-9	Projected Waste Disposal Volumes by Sector for the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015.....	2-20
5-1	Simplified Process Block Flow Diagram of Eco-Industrial Park .....	5-14
6-1	100 Year FEMA Floodplain .....	6-3
6-2	Groundwater Recharge Areas .....	6-5
6-3	Water Supply Watersheds.....	6-6
6-4	Chattahoochee River Protection Buffers .....	6-8
6-5	Airports in the Atlanta Region .....	6-13
6-6	Conservation Areas and Greenspace.....	6-15
6-7	City of Atlanta Greenway Corridor Plan .....	6-16
6-8	Adjacent Counties Half Mile Buffer.....	6-19
6-9	Facility Siting Process .....	6-21

## Tables

1-1	Population by County and the City of Atlanta .....	1-8
1-2	Employment by Major Industry Sector .....	1-9
2-1	Waste Generated by Sector in 2003 .....	2-2
2-2	Waste Composition of MSW Landfills Receiving Waste from the City of Atlanta in 2004 .....	2-10
2-3	City of Atlanta Population Projections for 2004-2015 .....	2-13
2-4	Projected Residential Solid Waste Generation Rates in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015.....	2-14
2-5	Projected Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Solid Waste per Employee Generation Rate in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015.....	2-15
2-6	Projected Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Solid Waste per Capita Generation Rate in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015.....	2-15
2-7	Projected C&D Debris Generation in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015.....	2-16
2-8	Projected Yard Trimmings Generation in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015 .....	2-17
2-9	Projected Sludge Disposal Amounts in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015 .....	2-18
2-10	Projected Tire Disposal Amounts in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015 .....	2-19
2-11	Projected Residential Recycling Amounts in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015.....	2-19
2-12	Projected Waste Disposal Amounts in the City of Atlanta for 2004-2015 .....	2-20
2-13	Per Capita Reduction Rate in Municipal Solid Waste for the City of Atlanta (1992 vs. 2003) .....	2-23

---

## Tables (Continued)

2-14	Waste Disposal Target for the City of Atlanta for the 10-Year Planning Period .....	2-24
3-1	Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Rates for the City of Atlanta (1992 vs. 2003) .....	3-1
3-2	Major Organizations in the City of Atlanta that Accept Reusable Materials .....	3-3
3-3	Waste Exchange Organizations .....	3-5
3-4	Post-Consumer Use of Materials Recycled by Dreamsan .....	3-7
3-5	City of Atlanta Operated Recycling Drop-Off Centers.....	3-8
3-6	Privately Operated Recycling Drop-Off Centers in the City of Atlanta.....	3-8
3-7	Tire Recycling Companies in Georgia.....	3-10
4-1	City of Atlanta Solid Waste Collection Substations .....	4-2
4-2	City of Atlanta Solid Waste Collection Vehicles.....	4-3
4-3	Private Waste Haulers That Provide Residential Recycling Service in City of Atlanta .....	4-7
5-1	Inventory of Disposal Facilities to be Used by the City of Atlanta during the Planning Period (2005 – 2014) .....	5-4
5-2	Disposal Assurance Capacity for the City of Atlanta for the 10-Year Planning Period.....	5-5
7-1	Public Meetings .....	7-5
8-1	City of Atlanta Comprehensive SWMP Implementation Plan.....	8-5

## Appendices

- A Educational Materials
- B Executive Summary from Benchmarking Analysis
- C Assurance of Disposal Capacity
- D References

# Acknowledgements

---

The City of Atlanta would like to thank a number of individuals for their hard work, perseverance, and determination to make this Solid Waste Management Plan a reality.

## City of Atlanta

David E. Scott, Commissioner, Department of Public Works

Donna D. Owens, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Works

James Swope, Public Works Manager, Office of Solid Waste Services Administration

Gayla Dodson, Public Works Manager, Office of Solid Waste Services Operations

Katrina Taylor-Parks, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Department of Public Works

Susan McCray, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Mayor

Luz Borrero, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Mayor

James Witherspoon, Administrative Services Manager, Office of Solid Waste Services

Pamela Wilson, Public Information Officer, Department of Public Works

Bonnie Ware, Constituent Services Coordinator, Office of Constituent Services

Kike Ojo, Environmental Justice Officer, Department of Watershed Management

Benjamin Taube, Environmental Officer, City of Atlanta

Marc Goncher, Assistant City Attorney, Department of Law

Marilyn Britt, Assistant Public Information Officer, Department of Public Works

## CH2M HILL/Williams-Russell, and Johnson, Inc. - Joint Venture

Gerri Dickerson, Project Manager

John Wood, Senior Consultant

Eric Chang, Assistant Project Manager

Kira Zender, Environmental Planner

Gisele Parker, Environmental Engineer

## R.W. Beck

John Culbertson, Project Manager – Benchmarking Study

Abby Goldsmith, Senior Consultant – Benchmarking Study

---

Clarification and Mediation

Valena Scott, Senior Associate – Public Involvement

Clara Axam, President – Public Involvement

Pete Hayley, Senior Facilitator – Public Involvement

Kimberly Wright, Junior Associate – Public Involvement

Lisa Hawkins, Senior Facilitator – Public Involvement

Eagle Environmental Group

John Brunson, Environmental Engineer – Solid Waste Management

DRAFT

# Acronyms and Abbreviations

---

APAB	Atlanta Public Advisory Board
APWA	American Public Works Association
ARC	Atlanta Regional Commission
AST	Aboveground Storage Tank
CAU	Clark Atlanta University
C&D	Construction and Demolition
CDP	Comprehensive Development Plan
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbon
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CRR	Consolidated Resource Recovery, Inc.
CSWMP	Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan
CY	Cubic Yard
DCA	Department of Community Affairs
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DPW	Department of Public Works
EJ	Environmental Justice
EJRC	Environmental Justice Resource Center
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPD	Environmental Protection Division
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GASF	Georgia Archaeological Site File
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRC	Georgia Recycling Coalition
HDPE	High-density Polyethylene
HIVE	High Intensity Visibility Enforcement
KAB	Keep Atlanta Beautiful
KGB	Keep Georgia Beautiful
MFA	Materials for the Arts
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
MRPA	Metropolitan River Protection Act
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
NAICS	North American Industry Classification System
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NHRP	National Register of Historic Places
NPU	Neighborhood Planning Unit
NRC	National Recycling Coalition
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
O.C.G.A.	Official Code of Georgia Annotated
PAYT	Pay-As-You-Throw
PETE	Polyethylene Terephthalate

---

RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RDC	Regional Development Center
RDF	Refuse-derived Fuel
ROW	Right-of-Way
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SPRC	SP Recycling Corporation
SWANA	Solid Waste Association of North America
S.W.E.E.T.	Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Team
SWIX	Southern Waste Information Exchange
SWMP	Solid Waste Management Plan
SWMPAG	Solid Waste Management Planning Advisory Group
SWRF	Solid Waste Reserve Fund
SWS	Office of Solid Waste Services
TPD	Tons per Day
UPS	United Parcel Service
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USC	United States Code
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UST	Underground Storage Tank